

Appl. No. 09/974,775
Amdt. dated March 24, 2004
Reply to Office Action of October 24, 2003

REMARKS/ARGUMENTS

In the Final Office Action mailed October 24, 2003, the drawings and claims 1-21 were examined. The drawings were objected to under 37 C.F.R. 1.83(a), for not showing every feature of the invention specified in the claims. Claims 1-14 were rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 103(a), as allegedly obvious over U.S. Patent No. 3,992,014 to Retford ("the Retford patent") in view of U.S. Patent No. 4,424,307 to DiEdwardo et al. ("the DiEdwardo patent"). Applicant has canceled claims 1-14, and, thus the Examiner's rejections of those claims are moot.

Applicant acknowledges with appreciation the allowability of claims 15-21 if rewritten to include all of the limitations of the base claim and any intervening claims.

Applicant respectfully requests withdrawal of the objection to the drawings and claims 15-21, for the reasons set forth below.

The Objection to The Drawings Under 37 C.F.R. 1.83(a)

On page 2 of the Office Action, the drawings were objected to under 37 C.F.R. 1.83(a). In particular, the Examiner stated as follows:

The drawings must show every feature of the invention specified in the claims. Therefore, the golf ball must be shown or the feature(s) canceled from the claim(s) . . . A proposed drawing correction or corrected drawings are required in reply to the Office action to avoid abandonment of the application.

In the Amendment submitted for filing with the U.S. Patent and Trademark Office on July 29, 2003, Applicant submitted FIGS. 2a-c, which illustrate the golf ball discussed in the specification and claims of the instant application, and amended the specification to

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include references to FIGS. 2a-c. No new matter was added. Enclosed with this Amendment is a copy of the previously submitted FIGS. 2a-c. Also, Applicant in this paper has amended the specification to include a Brief Description of the Drawings section, which refers to FIGS. 2a-c as well as originally filed FIG. 1. Thus, Applicant respectfully requests withdrawal of the objection to the drawings.

Allowable Subject Matter

On page 3 of the Office Action, the Examiner indicated that claims 15-21 "would be allowable if rewritten in independent form including all of the limitations of the base claim and any intervening claims." Applicant has amended claims 15 and 17 so they are written in independent form, including all of the limitations of base independent claim 10 and intervening dependent claim 14. Also, Applicant has amended claim 19 so it is written in independent form, including all of the limitations of base independent claim 10. Dependent claims 16, 18, and 20 directly depend from amended independent claims 15, 17, and 19, respectively, and claim 21 depends from dependent claim 20. Accordingly, Applicant believes claims 15-21 to be allowable, and respectfully requests removal of the objection to these claims.

Conclusion


This application should now be in condition for a favorable action. Applicant respectfully requests entry of the Amendment and an early allowance of all claims herein. If for any reason the Examiner finds the application other than in allowance, the Examiner is requested to call the undersigned attorney at below-listed telephone number to discuss the steps

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necessary for placing the application in condition for allowance. If there are any fees due in connection with the filing of this amendment, please charge the fees to our Deposit Account No. 19-1853.

Respectfully submitted,

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Enclosures